



**Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health**

**1<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting on  
Benchmarking access to healthcare in the EU**

**F101 00/42**

**Thursday 17 May 2017, 12:00 – 16:00 h CET**

**MINUTES**

**1. Participants**

**1.1. Members**

Sabina Nuti – Chair (SN)  
Martin McKee – Rapporteur (MMK)  
Christian Anastasy (CA) – Apologies  
Pedro Barros (PB)  
Margaret Barry (MB) – Apologies  
Ales Bourek (AB)  
Werner Brouwer  
Jan De Maeseneer (JDM)  
Dionne Kringos (DK)  
Lasse Lehtonen (LL)  
Liubove Murauskiene (LM)  
Luigi Siciliani (LS) via videolink

**1.2. Secretariat**

Patricia Sanchez-Villacanas Cabrera  
Päivi Kontinen (PK)

**2. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

**3. On-going work on the opinion**

**3.1. Mandate**

This was the first meeting of this Working group. The Chair welcomed the participants and started the meeting by briefly presenting the recent work done by Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), which is closely linked with the WG's mandate.

The Rapporteur took the floor by presenting a draft text, which he had distributed in advance of the meeting. It was suggested that a previous opinion on access should not be repeated, but rather think about a shorter report similar to a guide/action plan.

The WG with the Rapporteur's lead reflected on possible starting points. Questions were raised concerning how to define population and who would be included in it as legal and actual entitlements vary between countries. Also the division between citizens and patients can be unclear, e.g. in case of vaccinations.

Other questions referred to what should be put together with the indicators. To this regard, questions on how to frame out affordability considering that the health systems are different or what is a good measure for unmet needs were raised.

Consideration should also be given on how much each country spends on health care and with what results and outcomes. Overall, the need to capture the huge dimensions between different countries was stressed and referred to as a challenge.

In view of filling in the missing gaps in the text the WG members reflected on possible additions. They discussed and agreed on a task division to proceed with the drafting.

### **Action points**

1. The Rapporteur to draft a new version of the text by 19 May.
2. WG members' comments to the Rapporteur by 5 June.

### **3.2. Practical arrangements**

The next WG meeting, a teleconference, is scheduled for 13 June at 15:00.